

BUENA VISTA TREE BOARD
Minutes from the September 29, 2010 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by President Dennis Hutton in the Public Works. In attendance were Meg Sweeney, Dennis Hutton, Bill Shelby, Roy Gertson, Bill Yinger, Gary Ludwig, Kristen Krasnow, Ken Keller, Jed Selby and John Schnaderbeck. President Dennis Hutton turned the meeting over to Jed Selby.

Jed stated that very mature trees in the west side of town are part of our Smart Growth initiative. Jed showed a series of slides of various parts of town and other cities showing tree placement and design. 40 -60% of street light life would be extended with street trees. Street trees provide necessary storm water retention. He stated one condition is not right for every location in downtown. It was noted that there was no traffic in the square from 10:am to noon, but as soon as the sun drops people appear to use the square. 18 Narrow Leaf Cottonwoods were just planted and will grow fast. Populars are doing well as they are 5 years in the ground and growing well. Dennis suggested diversification rather than all one species, but noted there are not too many options at this altitude. Jed stated that good trees provide shade and make paint last longer thus reducing the amount of times a property has to be repainted resulting in money savings. Shade trees should be planted on the South and West sides of properties. The Town can also get 40 to 60 % increase in asphalt life with tree shade. Storm water absorption would be about 30% from shade trees. Property values would increase and carbon would be sequestered with an improvement in the quality of life in the town.

Normal water consumption is presently 1.3 million gallons per year or 4 acre feet. We presently have 3000+ trees in town. Cottonwoods would require 1.3 million gallons to water 1,200 trees. A drip system could offset the town watering truck having to water street trees. Drip systems are very efficient.

The drip system provides a misting effect where there are a large number of trees. Trees would need 3 ft. of crushed rock for the roots to grow into. Visibility is paramount, the canopy should be above the windows and a bioswale should be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission to remove storm water and to water the trees. Trees bordering streets should be in the bioswale. Streets should be a minimum of 30 ft. with a 7 ft. parking lane, 5 ft. of bioswale and 5 ft. of sidewalk before the business building. This would be for both sides of the street. Planning and strategy are crucial. Pruning and watering budgets should follow one area at a time not helter-skelter.

VOLUNTEER TIME

1 hour for John, 15 hours for Roy, Bill and Dennis and 11 hours each for the Western Colorado Forestry Conference (Bill, Dennis, Roy and John) for a total of 90 hrs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works:

January acceptance of budget due October 12, 2010.

Colorado State Forest Service:

Colorado Tree Grant must be submitted (application) to Jeff Keidel. Megan will require about 1 month to put everything together for the survey and the Tree Board will have to match the grant with \$1,500.00 and will involve the High School.

OLD BUSINESS

- Adopt-A-Tree: 18 trees were planted August 24-26, 2010 working 8 hours per day with 6 Public Works staff and 2 Tree Board members.
- Western Community Forestry Conference: 5 tree board members received a large amount of information on city forestry. There will be a board meeting on November 5th at 10:am with Vince Urbina from the Forest Service in preparation for the 2011 conference in Buena Vista.

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be a work session next meeting to approve the tree removal and tree pruning license examinations.
- Examine and approve the Grant Applications for GPS surveying of the town of Buena Vista.
- There will be an October 13, 2010 bid opening with a list of trees to be removed (6 cottonwoods) and pruned (33 trees in the town proper).

FINAL COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Schnaderbeck
Secretary

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